

Rhayader Rural District Council



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer
of Health



For the Year 1955



MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Year 1955

Chairman - Alderman EVAN MORGAN, J.P.

Vice-Chairman - Councillor E. T. K. MORGAN, J.P., C.C.

Councillors

D. H. Bound, A. E. Oakley, O. P. Davies, T. J. Owen

R. P. L. Hughes (elected May 1955)

Lt. Col. J. L. Phillips, D.S.O., J.P.

T. P. Hughes, J.P. (retired May 1955)

A. H. Price (elected May 1955) W. J. Hughes (retired May 1955)

C. H. Price, R. E. P. Jones, J. C. Price (elected May 1955)

I. J. Lewis, J. T. L. Price (elected May 1955)

Maj. Gen. R. S. Lewis, C.B., O.B.E. (retired May 1955)

W. A. Probert (elected May 1955), S. E. Lloyd, A. Thompson

G. D. Morgan (elected May 1955) J. D. Williams

T. E. Williams (retired May 1955) J. F. Mills

Public Health and Housing Committee. Finance Committee
All Members of the Council

Medical Officer of Health

J. D. O.'M. POOLE, M.B., Ch.B.

(General Practitioner and part-time M.O.H.)

Sanitary Inspector

G. H. ROBERTS, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

(Cert.-S.I.E.J.B. and Meat and other Foods of R.S.I.)

BRYNCOED

RHAYADER

26th January, 1956

*The Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Rhayader*

Sirs,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the state of the Public Health in the Rhayader Rural District in the year 1955.

Throughout the year the weather was excellent and seasonable, which had a noticeably beneficial effect on general health and wellbeing, and on the prosperity of agriculture, our chief industry.

It is satisfactory to report that the contract was made this year for the installation of the complete new Sewage Disposal Scheme for Rhayader, and to note that during the process of putting in the new plant considerable improvements are to be made in our water conduits.

The completion of the scheme will have the effect of relieving the ever present anxiety about pollution of the river and possible infection of our water mains, which lie necessarily in fairly close proximity to the sewers.

The exceptionally dry conditions of the summer once again increased problems of water supply in many parts of the district. A few properties relying on private sources were for sometime without a supply. It is feared that in periods of drought this trouble may arise perpetually, and there is little prospect that it can be in all instances overcome. In Rhayader itself the supply was maintained without interruption, by the use of supplementary means, which unfortunately are only operable at considerable expense.

The housing problem was not acute. Several schemes were in course of preparation during the year. One contract for sixteen units of accommodation was let at the end of the year, but work had not commenced by the end of the period under review.

Slum clearance proposals submitted to the Ministry for work to be carried out during the next five years, indicating the intention to demolish twenty-two slum properties, were approved, nothing was done however, during 1955, but the Ministry were informed that the first years programme was the preparation of a clearance scheme in respect of a group of seven houses at Newbridge-on-Wye.

I remain, Sirs,

Your obedient Servant,

J. D. O.'M. POOLE, M.B., Ch.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.



STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area of District	..	...	...	91,240 acres
Estimated Population		...	...	4,310
Number of Inhabited Houses...		...	...	1,290
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£116,067
Product of Penny Rate		...	...	£480

The town of Rhayader is an ancient market town, standing about 700 ft. above sea level in the Cambrian Mountains. The 1,500 acres of lakes in the Elan and Claerwen Valleys and the wild beauty of the upper Wye Valley are proving an increasing attraction and the town is visited by thousands of visitors annually.

Agriculture is the principal industry and its importance is indicated by the fact that about 58,000 acres are devoted to it, the farm population being about 40% of the total.

HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The District is served by one part-time Medical Officer, a Surveyor and one Sanitary Inspector. A Rodent Operative is shared with Knighton Rural District Council.

Six nurses provide a home nursing service.

The Public Health Laboratory Service, Aberystwyth, carry out analyses of milk, water and histological examination of diseased animals slaughtered at the local abattoir. I am grateful to Dr. Sudds and her staff for their ready assistance.

Chemical analyses and examination of milk for fat content are done by the County Analyst, Carmarthen.

Post-natal, mothers and childrens welfare clinics are held monthly.

Clinics are available at Llandrindod Wells for Tuberculosis and at Hereford for Venereal Disease. The Chest Physician holds a weekly clinic at Llandrindod Wells.

There are no hospitals in the district but hospital services are provided at Knighton, Llandrindod Wells, Shrewsbury, Gobowen, Birmingham, Llanidloes and Aberystwyth. The facilities include the services of specialists in all branches of Medicine and Surgery.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

		Male	Female	Corrected Rate per 1,000
Live Births				
Legitimate	...	36	35	
Illegitimate	...	2	1	
Totals	...	38	36	22

Still Births

Legitimate	...	1	1	
Illegitimate	...	—	—	
Totals	...	1	1	0.6

Deaths

All Causes	...	18	39	11.1
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Deaths of Infants

Under 1 month	...	—	1	
Under 1 year	...	—	1	

Causes of Death

			Male	Female
Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	1	1
" " Lung, bronchus	...	...	2	—
" " Breast	...	...	—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	2	—
Diabetes	...	...	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	1	8
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	—	3
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	—	1
Other heart diseases	...	...	5	13
Influenza	...	...	1	1
Bronchitis	...	...	1	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	—
Congenital malformations	...	...	—	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	...	...	2	3
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	—	1
All other accidents	...	...	2	1
			18	39

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF DISEASE

Notifiable Diseases

		No. of cases notified
Measles	...	47
Pneumonia	...	3
Phthysis	...	1
Pertussis	...	4
Anterior Poliomyelitis	...	1
		<hr/> 56

Tuberculosis

No. of cases on register :		
Pulmonary	...	11
Non Pulmonary	...	5
No. of new cases notified :		
Pulmonary	...	2
Non Pulmonary	...	0

Immunisation—Diphtheria

		Number
Under 1 year...	...	38
Age 1 year	...	12
Age 2 years	...	2
Age 3 years	...	—
Age 4 years	...	1
Age 5-9 years	...	2
Age 10-14 years	...	—
Age 15 years	...	—
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Total		55

Whooping Cough Innoculations

		Number
Under 1 year...	...	34
Age 1 year	...	13
Age 2 years	...	2
Age 3 years	...	3
Age 4 years	...	1
Age 5-9 years	...	3
Age 10-14 years	...	—
Age 15 years	...	—
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Total		56

Vaccinations

	Number
Under 1 year... ..	6
Age 1 year	1
Age 15 years and over	7

Total 14

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Sanitary Inspection

	Inspections & Re-visits
Rural Housing Survey	14
Allocation of Council Houses	38
Sanitary defects	7
Infectious diseases	1
Water supply	19
Drains inspected	10
Cesspools and Closet conversions	84
Factories—power	2
Animals so kept	3
Accumulations of refuse	1
Rats and Mice	4
Other pests	1
Hill Farming Grants	7
Improvements	3
Petroleum Acts	5
Interviews... ..	31
Meat Inspection	82
Public Houses	3
Other Food Shops	3
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	318

Private Water Supplies

33 samples were taken of private supplies

Factories

No. of non-power factories... ..	1
No. of power factories	22
No. of visits	2
No. of contraventions found and remedied	2

Housing and Public Health Acts

No. of properties in respect of which informal action was taken	36
No. of properties in which defects were remedied as result of informal action ...	20
No representation were made for demolition and no statutory action taken.	
Action was taken as follows :	
Lack of proper drainage	21
Stopped drains	11
General defects	1
Dangerous structure	1
Defective roof	1
Defective washboiler	1
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	36

DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE

The services of a rodent operative are shared with Knighthon Rural District Council, he works half-time in the summer months and full-time in the winter.

Inspection and treatments are as follows :

Farms

No. of agricultural properties in the district	419
No. of farms services by A.E.C. on contract	32
No. of farms surveyed in the year ...	419
No. of infested farms found	42
No. of farms treated by the R.D.C. ...	25
Total No. of visits to farms	796

Business Premises

No. of business premises surveyed ...	28
No. of premises found infested	10
No. of treatments by R.D.C.	10
Total No. of visits made	48

Private Premises

Private premises are treated free of charge	
No. of private premises inspected ...	24
No. of premises found infested	6
No. of treatments made	6
Total No. of visits made	78

Council Properties

No. of Council's properties found infested ...	4
No. of visits made for inspection & treatment	41

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Meat Inspection

			Other Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses
No. killed	...	...	13	3	7	446	65	—
All were inspected post mortem								

All Diseases except T.B. & Cysticerii

(i) Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	1	4	—	—
(ii) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	8	2	—	113	1	—
(iii) Percentage affected	... 61%	66%	14%	25%	1.5%	—

Tuberculosis only

(i) Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	1	—	—	—	—
(iii) Percentage affected by T.B.	... 7%	33%	—	—	—	—

Cysticerosis

(i) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Carcasses submitted to treatment by refri- gation	...	...	—	—	—	—
(iii) Generalised and totally condemned	...	...	—	—	—	—

Total weight of meat condemned 498 lbs.

Condemned meat is coloured and sold to the local hunt for feeding hounds.

Milk

No action.

Ice Cream

No action.

Other Foods

Six visits made to other food shops. Catering establishments—seven visits.

GENERAL

Refuse Collection

Collection is made as follows:—Rhayader, Cwmduddwr and Elan Valley—twice weekly.

Newbridge-on-Wye, Doldowlod, Llanyre, Crossgates, Penybont and Nantmel—weekly.

St. Harmon, Pantydwr, Nantgwyn, Bwlchysarnau, Abbeycwmhir and Llangurig Road—fortnightly.

Refuse is now tipped at The Bog, Newbridge-on-Wye and Gravel Road, Nantmel.

Public Cemetery

Four interments took place during the year. Work was almost completed on the new entrance buildings which comprise a mortuary and rest room. Separate public conveniences are also provided. The mortuary has been designed in such a way as to have all necessary conveniences for the performance of autopsies.

Public Conveniences

Work was started on the contract to convert the existing sanitary conveniences in Rhayader to eight W.Cs. for women and to build new conveniences for men on a site in the Smithfield.

Sewerage

The modern plants at Newbridge-on-Wye and Crossgates functioned satisfactorily during the year.

A tender for the Woodlands scheme was accepted and submitted to the Ministry.

Public Water Supplies

The work of laying a main approximately three miles long from the Birmingham aqueduct to supplement the supply at Llanyre was completed.

Repairs done to a large leak in the Rhayader system resulted in a considerable decrease in the consumption per head, 45 gallons was the figure for this year. All samples taken in Rhayader were satisfactory. The latest samples taken from other supplies have all been good.





